

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (new): A fastening device for at least one disc shaped data carrier comprising a central opening in a cassette, wherein the cassette comprises a middle part on which a crown of tongues is provided, the crown of tongues is elastically insertable into the central opening of the at least one data carrier, wherein there is provided at least one connecting element movably connecting at least two of the tongues, wherein the connecting element is produced in the production of the fastening device in a first position, and wherein after the production for increasing the restoring force of the tongues against the data carrier the connecting element is moved into a second position.

Claim 16 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the data carrier can be fastened and removed from the cassette if the connecting element is in its second position.

Claim 17 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein opposed tongues are connected with each other by means of the at least one connecting element.

Claim 18 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the tongues comprise at least one axial arm extending through the central opening of the at least one data carrier and wherein the at least one connecting element is attached to the axial arms connecting the axial arms substantially on ends pointing towards the direction of removal of the data carrier.

Claim 19 (new): The fastening device according to claim 18, wherein in the first position the connecting element at least partially extends above the ends of the axial arms pointing towards the direction of removal of the data carrier and/or of the radial arms respectively, wherein by means of pressing the connecting element down in the direction of insertion of the data carrier, the connecting element is brought into the second position.

Claim 20 (new): The fastening device according to claim 18, wherein the connecting element comprises elastic strips, the elastic strips on one end are connected with the axial arms or radial arms of the tongues, respectively, and wherein the connecting element furthermore comprises a knob which is substantially located on an axis of symmetry of the fastening device, the strips are connected with their second end to the knob.

Claim 21 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the tongues and the at least one connecting element are one-piece.

Claim 22 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the fastening device is made of a polymeric material with a modulus of elasticity E in the range of approximately 1300 to 3200 MPa, and wherein the polymeric material is a thermoplastic material in one-component design or two-component design.

Claim 23 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the crown comprises 6 or 8 or 10 tongues, wherein tongues with noses for fastening the data carrier alternate with tongues without noses, and wherein either all tongues or only the tongues with noses are connected by means of the connecting element, wherein the connecting element comprises a central uniform part, as well as elastic strips branching off from the central, uniform part by at least indirectly connecting this central, uniform part with the tongues.

Claim 24 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein a middle part comprises an inner, substantially disc shaped part, on an inner edge of which the tongues are attached spaced from each other leaving slots between the tongues, and wherein the inner part comprises means allowing an increased elastic mobility of the crown of tongues with respect to the cassette, wherein these means are in the form of a circumferential region with reduced thickness, and/or in the form of a circumferential rippled region, and/or in the form of holes in the inner part.

Claim 25 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the disc shaped data carrier is a CD or a DVD.

Claim 26 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the tongues are designed to fasten two stacked data carriers, wherein alternately every second tongue is provided with a nose for axial fastening of the data carrier, while on the other tongues a rib is provided for keeping a controlled distance between the data carrier.

Claim 27 (new): The fastening device according to claim 15, wherein the at least one connecting element comprises strips in the form of flexible, flat lamella with a width in the range of approximately 0.8 to 3 mm, and with a thickness of 0.1 to 0.4 mm.

Claim 28 (new): A method for the production of a fastening device according to claim 15, comprising the steps of in a first production step in a forming process the connecting element is produced in its first position, and wherein subsequently, at the latest after insertion of the first data carrier, the connecting element is brought into its second position for increasing the restoring force of the tongues against the data carrier.

Claim 29 (new): The fastening device according to claim 18, wherein the axial arms are connected indirectly by means of inwardly pointing radial arms provided on the ends of the axial arms pointing towards the direction of removal of the data carrier.

Claim 30 (new): The fastening device according to claim 19, wherein the connecting element is brought into the second position by a snapping process.

Claim 31 (new): The fastening device according to claim 19, wherein the connecting element in the second position does not extend above the ends of the axial arms pointing towards the direction of removal of the data carrier and/or of the radial arms respectively.

Claim 32 (new): The fastening device according to claim 22, wherein the modulus of elasticity E is less than approximately 2000 MPa.

Claim 33 (new): The fastening device according to claim 27, wherein the width is in the range of approximately 1 to 2 mm and the thickness is in the range of approximately 0.2 to 0.3 mm.